Library

40

WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1954

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

DONALD G. MACGILL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. OLDHAM, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat & Other Foods,
Sanitary Inspector.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b3023234x

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wardle Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Mortality of your district during 1954.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

(i)	Area in Acres	3,192
(ii)	Population 1951 Census	4,893
	Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population 1950	4,610
(iii)	Number of inhabited houses at end of 1954, according to the rate book	1,436
(iv)	Rateable value	£31,815
(v)	Sum represented by a penny rate	£132.11.3.
(vi)	Industries - The chief industries carried out in the area are:- cotton and woollen manufacturing, silk weaving, wallpaper printing, dairy farming and light engineering.	
(vii)	Unemployment - There was no unemployment worthy of mention during the year.	

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	45	28	17
Illegitimate	3	1	2
STILL BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1
DEATHS OF INFANTS Under 1 year of age:			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Crude	13·9
Adjusted	8·9

Still Births:-

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births Nil.

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	64	27	37

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Crude	9.8
Adjusted	8·9

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 total births	43
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	22
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	22

Death from Cancer (all ages)	11
Death from Measles (all ages)	-
Death from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

	Live Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Rate of Death under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births.
Year 1953	14·0	12·3	Nil
Year 1954	13·9	9·8	22
Change	-0·3	-2·5	+22

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Smallpox.

No cases of Smallpox occurred in 1954.

Scarlet Fever.

The two cases reported were removed and treated in hospital.

Diphtheria.

Again there were no cases.

Enteric Fever.

No cases.

Whooping Cough.

Only 9 cases were notified.

Measles.

Only one case of measles was notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One Puerperal Pyrexia was notified during the year, this occurring in Birch Hill Hospital.

Erysipelas.

No case to report.

Tuberculosis.

4 new cases were notified (one from Birch Hill and three from the Urban District).

Anthrax.

No cases.

TABLE I

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1954 (including cases notified from Birch Hill)

"NOTIFIABLE DISEASES"	Total cases at all ages	Total cases notified — Years									Total deaths	Hospital	
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over		Total cases removed to Hospital from District.	Death in hospital of persons belonging to district.
Smallpox.....	0												
Scarlet Fever.....	2			1	1							2	-
Diphtheria(including membranous croup).....	0												
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid.....	0												
Paratyphoid Fever.....	0												
Measles (excluding Rubella).....	1				1								
Whooping Cough.....	9		3	3	3								
Acute Pneumonia.....	0												
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1						1						
Cerebro-spinal Fever...	0												
Acute Poliomyelitis....	0												
Acute Polio-Encephalitis.....	0												
Acut Encephalitis Lethergica.....	0												
Dysentery.....	0												
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	0												
Erysipelas.....	0												
Malaria.....	0												
Food Poisoning.....	1			1									
Anthrax.....	0												
Meningococcal Infection	0												
Tuberculosis Respiratory	4				1		1	1	1				
	18	0	3	5	6	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	-

Generally.

It is pleasing to note that no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, nor Cerebro-Spinal Fever occurred. There were no epidemics during the year which need particular mention.

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED in 1954 apart from Tuberculosis were 14 as compared with 110 in 1953 and a comparative table below:-

	1953	1954
Scarlet Fever	1	2
Diphtheria	-	-
Measles	92	1
Whooping Cough	10	9
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-
Puerpural Pyrexia	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	4	-
Meningococcal Infection	2	-
Food Poisoning	-	1
	110	14

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1954:-

	Males	Females
Cancer	5	6
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	4	7
Heart Diseases	10	12
Diseases of circulatory system	1	5
Pneumonia	2	2
Bronchitis	2	2
All other causes	3	3
	27	37

I am chiefly indebted for the information regarding un-notifiable diseases, to the returns of sickness in schools supplied to me by the Schools Attendance Officer.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given to me by Mr. John L. Seago and Mr. W. Oldham.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

DONALD G. MACGILL,
Medical Officer of Health.

December, 1955.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1954.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

For the year 1954 I have to report as follows:-

GENERAL SURVEY.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No complaints about the quality of the effluent were received during the year. The structure of the detritus tanks did not worsen during the year. New filter arms were fitted to two circular filter beds.

The sewers throughout the area have been sufficient at all times and again I can report a trouble-free year as far as the two syphons in Dyehouse Lane are concerned. The Ejector caused no trouble.

The sewers were treated for rats twice during the year and post-baiting showed no infestation.

Infectious Diseases.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to hospital.

House Refuse.

House refuse removed on 38 occasions during the year, and disposal is by controlled tipping at Ashbrook. Nightsoil from pails is also collected in a tank and poured into sewer. No rat or fly infestation has occurred but once during the year a small fire on the tip was extinguished.

Slaughterhouses.

One slaughterhouse was licenced and came into operation in July, 1954. Two other applications for licences were refused and appeals to both were dismissed by the magistrates of the Rochdale County Court.

LIST OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED

Animals Examined:-

Month	Bovines	Sheep	Pigs	Calves
July	50	52	0	1
August	32	48	0	1
September	43	103	15	2
October	52	83	16	7
November	53	114	16	16
December	56	88	34	13
	286	488	81	40

Parts surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

	Reason
Bovines:-	
62 lbs. body meat	Tuberculosis
14 heads and tongues	do
40 sets of lungs	do
19 Messenteries	do
2 livers	do
81 lbs. body meat	Bone taint
3 livers	Cirrhosis
1 liver	Cysts
1 liver	Multiple abscesses
Pigs:-	
2 heads	Tuberculosis
1 pluck	do.

The standard of animals slaughtered was good and the incidence of disease below the average for the Country as a whole.

Shops.

Meat shops continue to maintain a good standard and on the whole the small house and shop traders have kept abreast with the times and introduced refrigerators in greater numbers. Bakehouses are attached to three shops, and have maintained a good standard.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Only 3% of the houses in the district have to rely on wells or springs for their water supply. The remaining 97% have a piped supply which is sufficient and suitable for all domestic purposes. The problem of the trouble caused by pressure and deposits, mentioned for two years, is still with us. Towards the end of the year the water supply was particularly dirty and complaints were made to Rochdale Corporation.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extensions during the year and the properties still unsewered are either outlying or low lying and are unconnected for economical or engineering reasons.

At the works the sewage is treated by precipitation tanks, continuous filter and humus treatment. Storm overflow treatment during wet periods is available.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Roch continues to be polluted. Some improvement has been noted since one mill in Littleborough closed down.

Closet Accommodation.

The contribution payable by the Council as an inducement to owners to convert obsolete closets to fresh water flush type is £8 for each pail closet and £4 for each waste water closet.

Smoke Abatement.

20 observations were taken during the year 1 of which exceeded three minutes black smoke emission. A considerable improvement on last year.

Schools

The three schools in the district are maintained in good order.

Offensive Trade.

No nuisance has occurred from the only fellmonger in the district. No actual fellmongering work goes on at the present time.

Housing.

No Council houses were built during the year whilst four private houses were completed. Several owner/occupiers improved their houses by the addition of bathrooms with hot and cold running water. Two houses were demolished during 1954 and a further two closed.

TABLE II

Relating to Unfit Houses (in accordance with Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-1932).

1. Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.	4
2. Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	32
3. Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:-	
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or	0
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	4
4. Number of notices served requiring execution of works	0
5. Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	0
6. Number of demolition or Closing Orders made	4
7. Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930.	2
8. Number of houses demolished	2

TABLE III

Closet Accommodation

	1954	1953	1930
Privy Middens	28	28	55
No. of closets attached to Middens	26	26	55
No. of Pail Closets	78	78	156
No. of dry Ashpits	4	4	9
No. of Ashbins	1,260	1,253	473
No. of houses on Water Carriage System	954	950	444

During the year there were no conversions to fresh water flush closets.

TABLE IV

Inspections 1954

	Visits or Inspections	Defects	Remedied
Housing	237	37	32
Factories	25	-	-
Food Premises	21	-	-
Slaughterhouses	132	-	6
Bakehouses	12	-	-
Nuisance & others	286	95	81
	613	132	113

I wish to place on record my appreciation for the help of Mr. John L. Seago, Clerk of the Council, and the staff, for the ready and willing help on all occasions.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W. OLDHAM,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE V

List of Acts and Sections
thereof adopted by the Wardle Urban
District Council.

---

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part III) Adopted 15th May, 1891.

2. Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889. Adopted 6th April, 1899.

3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts II and III (excepting S.48) IV and V. Operative from 5th October, 1911.

4. Private Street Works Act, 1892. Operative from 5th October, 1911.

5. Notification of Births Act, 1907. Operative from 13th October, 1914.

6. Public Health Act, 1925 (Parts II, III and IV). Operative from 31st January, 1927.

7. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923. Adopted 2nd August, 1934.

8. Local Government and other Officers Superannuation Act, 1922. Adopted 1st April, 1938.

9. Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, Sections 13 and 14. Adopted 20th November, 1951.

10. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14, 24th November, 1952.

OBSERVATIONS AS TO THEIR ADMINISTRATION:-

Good.